

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO US COAST GUARD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015923

EXDIS MIL ADDDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT HAVANA 0177 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 19 JAN 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0177

EXDIS

PASS COMMANDANT U.S. COAST GUARD WASHDC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, CU, US
SUBJECT: COAST GUARD EXCHANGE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT MINUTE OF JANUARY 16 - 19
TALKS BETWEEN CUBAN BORDER GUARD TROOPS AND U.S. COAST
GUARD. CHAIRMAN OF US COAST GUARD DELEGATION SPECIFIED,
AND CUBAN COUNTERPART AGREED, THAT JOINT MINUTE REPRESENTS
RECORD OF MEETING AND IS NOT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.
JOINT MINUTE WAS EXCHANGED BETWEEN PARTIES, BUT WAS
NEITHER INITIALED NOR SIGNED. BOTH CHAIRMAN AGREED THAT
JOINT MINUTE WOULD BE TREATED AS INTERNAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT.

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2. BEGIN TITLE MINUTE OF TALKS HELD BETWEEN THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS
OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND THE U.S.
COAST GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA END TITLE.

3. BEGIN TEXT

IN HAVANA, ON JANUARY 16-19, 1978, TALKS WERE HELD

ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND POSSIBLE COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE
INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND THE U.S. COAST GUARD
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO
AS THE "AGENCIES"). EACH SIDE PRESENTED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.

THE MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION WERE:

MAJOR AMADO VALDES GONZALEZ,
CHIEF OF STAFF, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF
BORDER GUARD TROOPS, CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION

MAJOR MIGUEL BERMEJO LABRADA,
CHIEF OF THE NAVAL SECTION, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF
BORDER GUARD TROOPS

CAPTAIN ARMANDO URRA CABRISES,
CHIEF, INTELLIGENCE SECTION, DIRECTORATE GENERAL
OF BORDER GUARD TROOPS

FIRST LIEUTENANT RAUL GONZALEZ LOPEZ,
LEGAL ADVISOR, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF BORDER
GUARD TROOPS

BIENVENIDO GARCIA NEGRIN,
NORTH AMERICAN DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
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RELATIONS

ARMANDO VALMANA BETANCOURT,
LEGAL DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

JUANITA VERA GARCIA
INTERPRETER

THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WERE:

CAPTAIN LAWRENCE A. WHITE,
CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE DIVISION COAST GUARD
HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C., CHAIRMAN OF THE
DELEGATION

W. KENNEDY CROMWELL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISOR TO THE COMMANDANT
OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD

FRANKLIN K. WILLIS,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISOR,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CAPTAIN ROBERT L. COOK,
CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE BRANCH, SEVENTH COAST
GUARD DISTRICT, MIAMI, FLORIDA

COMMANDER FRANK W. OLSON,
CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE BRANCH, U.S. COAST
GUARD ATLANTIC AREA, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

COMMANDER JOHN C. IKENS,
CHIEF, INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT BRANCH,
SEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT, MIAMI, FLORIDA

ALBERT J. MCCULLOUGH,
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CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE LIAISON STAFF,
U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

JON D. GLASSMAN,
FIRST SECRETARY, UNITED STATES INTERESTS SECTION,
HAVANA

LT. COMMANDER EARL A. BLANTON,
STAFF, MARITIME LAWS AND TREATIES BRANCH,
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS, WASHDC

STEPHANIE R. VAN REIGERSBERG,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE INTERPRETER

THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED:

1. GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION
OF THE TWO AGENCIES.

2. CLARIFICATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES.

3. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON AND EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE
COOPERATION IN:

--SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN GENERAL;
--LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES CONCERNING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING
AND ACTS OF THREAT AND/OR OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE WHICH
ENDANGER MARITIME NAVIGATION.

4. DISCUSSION OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY EACH SIDE IN CASES OF
TEMPORARY DETENTION OR OF FORCE MAJEURE ARRIVALS BY SHIPS OF
THE OTHER SIDE.

AS A RESULT OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS OF THE ITEMS,
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THE DELEGATIONS AGREED TO WORK TO ENHANCE POSSIBLE COOPERATION AS INDICATED BELOW:

A) TO COOPERATE IN SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

B) TO ENHANCE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION, TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION RELATING TO SEARCH AND RESCUE ACTIVITIES, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES CONCERNING THE SUPPRESSION OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ACTS OF THREAT AND/OR OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE WHICH ENDANGER MARITIME NAVIGATION.

C) TO ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING AS IMMEDIATE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE PROPER EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION:

--FOR EMERGENCIES: THE AFTN NETWORK AND THE CLT COASTAL NETWORK;
--FOR LESS URGENT CASES: THROUGH THE RESPECTIVE INTERESTS SECTIONS.

IN BOTH CASES INFORMATION WILL BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF BORDER GUARD TROOPS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, AND TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. COAST GUARD REGARDING CASES INVOLVING AIRCRAFT WILL BE SENT TO THE ICAO RCC IN HAVANA.

D) EACH SIDE WILL WORK ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS PLANS TO BE ANALYZED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE EXPERTS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES, INCLUDING ALL PRACTICAL MODES: VOICE, CONTINUOUS WAVES (MORSE SIGNALS), TELETYPE.

E) THE TWO AGENCIES WILL IN PRINCIPLE CONSIDER COOPEATION CONCERNING THE SUPPRESSION OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ACTS OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE WHICH ENDANGER MARITIME NAVIGATION, WITH THE POSSIBLITY OF COORDINATING

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THEIR ACTIVITIES IN SPECIFIC CASES WHEN BOTH SIDES CONSIDER IT BENEFICIAL TO DO SO.

F) BY WAY OF RECIPROCITY FOR THE INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS REGARDING PROCEDURES FOR STOPPING AND BOARDING VESSELS, THE CUBAN SIDE WILL FURNISH SIMILAR INFORMATION TO THE U.S. SIDE TO BE BROUGHT

TO THE ATTENTION OF PERSONS NAVIGATING IN THE AREA.

G) THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS WILL SEND TO THE U.S.
COAST GUARD INFORMATION REGARDING VESSELS INVOLVED IN DRUG
TRAFFICKING WHICH HAVE BEEN SEIZED BY CUBAN AUTHORITIES IN
THE PAST SO THAT U.S. COAST GUARD RECORDS MAY BE UPDATED.

OTHERS MATTERS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED:

-THE U.S. DELEGATION EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN
OBTAINING PERMISSION TO USE CUBAN AIR CORRIDORS
IN CARRYING OUT SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS SOUTH
OF THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA. THE
CUBAN SIDE NOTED THE INTEREST EXPRESSED AND THE
PROCESSING OF THE MATTER WAS LEFT PENDING FOR
SUBMISSION TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.

--THE U.S. SIDE EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO RETURN EIGHT
SMALL BOATS IF THE CUBAN SIDE WISHED TO ACCEPT THIS
PROCEDURE. IF NOT, IT ASKED PERMISSION TO DISPOSE
OF THE AFOREMENTIONED BOATS. IN THAT CONNECTION
THE CUBAN SIDE REQUESTED A LIST OF THOSE VESSELS
INDICATING THEIR NAMES AND STATE OF REPAIR FOR
PURPOSES OF PROPER IDENTIFICATION, AND, GENERALLY
SPEAKING WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL.

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BOTH AGENCIES CONSIDERED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS
WERE BENEFICIAL AND PROMOTED UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND THE BORDER GUARD
TROOPS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA REGARDING THEIR
RESPECTIVE WORKING PROCEDURES. BOTH AGENCIES
BELIEVED FURTHER EFFORTS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION
WOULD BE USEFUL AND COULD BE DISCUSSED IN FUTURE
MEETINGS. END TEXT
GLASSMAN

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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